

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows (see Detail of claim amendments):

25. (Thrice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a first polynucleotide sequence or the full complement of the entire length of the first polynucleotide sequence, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 ; and wherein the first polynucleotide sequence detects *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

26. A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 25.

27. An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 26.

28. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 25, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence is at least 97% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

29. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 25, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (Twice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a first polynucleotide sequence or the full complement of the entire length of the first polynucleotide sequence, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

31. A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 30.

32. An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 31.

33. (Twice Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 32 under conditions sufficient for the production of the polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (Thrice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a first polynucleotide sequence or the full complement of the entire length of the first polynucleotide sequence, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence hybridizes to the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the hybridization conditions include incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5x SSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 micrograms/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA, followed by washing in 0.1x SSC at 65°C; and, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 ; and wherein the first polynucleotide sequence detects *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

38. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 37, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence is at least 97% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

39. (Thrice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a first polynucleotide sequence, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

40. A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 39.

41. An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 40.

42. (Twice Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 41 under conditions sufficient for the production of the polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Thrice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a first polynucleotide sequence, wherein the first polynucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

45. A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 44.

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46. An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 45.

47. (Twice Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 46 under conditions sufficient for the production of the polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.